



RAG Mag

Research Administration Group Magazine

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Navigating Turbulent Waters

Over the last couple of months, things have been somewhat chaotic in the world of sponsored funding, specifically funding that has been awarded by the federal government. For example, the nation has witnessed mass layoffs at government agencies. We have seen funding opportunities disappear into thin air. Hundreds of higher education institutions have been subject to project review for utilizing specific terms in their proposals. Though we have experienced difficult times in the past, we have never witnessed anything as brash as this.



Dr. Laneika Musalini

Many federal agencies have come under fire for promoting and supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, which does not align with President Trump’s agenda. Because of this, sponsored projects that support and/or promote DEI are under scrutiny. However, these federal agencies are fighting back, along with colleges and universities around the country, in the form of lawsuits.

Due to the number of lawsuits filed to fight the executive orders and other actions, Temporary Restraining Orders (TROs) have been issued to halt the dismantling of agencies, departments, and some grants. These TROs allow people to continue working while the cases are pending. Thus, we must navigate the high tides and rip currents as best we can now and in the future.

Rigging the Vessel

The Office of Sponsored Research & Programs (OSRP) is staying abreast of current events in real-time. We are in communication with program officers, attending webinars, and learning as much as possible to best guide MSU Denver during these tumultuous times. If stop-orders are issued we will notify PIs and evaluate our options, and we are committed to successfully sailing to the finish line.

At MSU Denver, we are continuing our daily work, including work on sponsored projects. This work is important to student success and retention as well as to the Denver community and society as a whole. We know that our students, faculty, and staff are making a difference, and we will continue to provide support and resources during this time.

OSRP has collected a list of resources for principal investigators to learn more. OSRP is also available to answer any questions and respond to any concerns. (continued on page 2)

Keeping the Vessel on Course

(continued from page 1)

OSRP is charting the course. In partnership with legal counsel and governmental affairs, OSRP will continue to share information as it is received so that the campus community is aware of any changes. Our rigging plan is to be agile and supportive with a customer-centric focus. We do not know what the future holds, but we will embrace change by being forward-thinking, resilient, and courageous. We are a team, a family, and we are in this together.

IRB News

IRB is Recruiting New Community Members

Every Institutional Review Board (IRB) must have at least one member from the community. A community member is someone who is not affiliated with the institution, meaning they have not attended or been employed by MSU Denver. They also must not have any immediate family members who are affiliated with MSU Denver. We would like to recruit at least two new community members to join our board. Having a community member is not only a requirement, but it also strengthens our expertise and provides a connection to our local community. If you know of someone who might be interested in this role or would like more information, please contact Mike Heathcote at hspp@msudenver.edu

Reminder for Class Projects That May Need IRB Approval

If you or your students are conducting research and you will be disseminating the results outside of your classroom, you may need IRB approval. Please always feel free to reach out to the IRB or HSPP for assistance in determining if your project will need IRB review.

IRB Virtual Office Hours

The MSU Denver HSPP is now offering a virtual office hour, every other Friday at 11:30am until 12:30pm. This is a time where anyone can drop in and ask any IRB related questions and receive immediate answers. Please visit our website for more information and exact dates.

PI Certification Pilot Update

The project team for the *Principal Investigator (PI) Certification Program* is moving forward toward project completion. As part of this project, we have launched the *PI Certification Pilot*. Sixty individuals were selected to participate in this pilot, launched Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The pilot takes approximately 1.25-1.5 hours to complete. Each pilot participant will be given credit for participating. The goal of the pilot is to gain insight from the community about the feel and content of the program. After participants have completed the pilot, feedback should be sent to the director of OSRP at lamusalini@msudenver.edu by August 11th. The official PI Certification Program will be available in the fall.

OSRP Cash Match Approval Process Reminder

Some funders require the university to share a portion of the cost for specific projects, called cost share, which may include cash match, in-kind contributions, or third-party match. **The deadline to request an OSRP cash match for the next cash match cycle is July 31, 2025.** Application information is available in the announcements section of the [OSRP website](#).

Upcoming Deadlines

Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education: Large. **Intent to Apply Deadline: May 14, 2025; Full Proposal Deadline: June 17, 2025** [More information](#)

The Gerber Foundation Pediatric Research Grants. **Concept Paper Deadlines: May 15 or November 15, 2025; Full Proposal Deadlines: August 15, 2025 or February 15, 2026** [More information](#)

Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation: Beckman Scholars Program supporting mentored undergraduate research experiences in chemistry, biology, biochemistry, medical sciences, or interdisciplinary combinations thereof. **Deadline: June 13, 2025.** [More information.](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF) Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Directorate for STEM Education (IUSE:EDU) grant program. **Deadlines: July 16, 2025; January 1, 2026.** [More information.](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF) Hispanic Serving Institutions: Equitable Transformation in STEM Education (HSI:ETSE) grant program. **Deadline: August 27, 2025** [More information](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF) Education Core Research (EDU ECR: Core) **Deadline: October 2, 2025** [More information](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF) Education and Broadening Participation in Earth Sciences (EAR EBP) grant program. **Full proposals accepted anytime.** [More information.](#)

Did You Know?

The Office of Sponsored Research and Programs provides a number of tools to assist you in your grant prospecting journey.

[The ExLibris Pivot-RP funding database](#) allows faculty, staff and students to locate both public and private funding opportunities across all disciplines, and for many different purposes. Featuring 25,000 records representing over 400,000 opportunities worth over \$33 billion, ExLibris Pivot-RP is the most comprehensive funding database available. With ExLibris Pivot-RP you can add your own tags to funding opportunities, create personalized folders, save and share searches, set up weekly alerts and let the system search for you.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities [AASCU Grants Resource Center \(GRC\)](#) search engine includes over 1500 private and federal funding opportunities screened for recurrence and for higher education eligibility. Our representatives at GRC are available to conduct customized funding searches for MSU Denver faculty and staff, and can also create related future funding alerts for you. To access the Grant Resource Center [first create your personal institutional account](#). After creating your account you will be able to access all of the GRC resources, as well as having the ability to [request customized funding reports](#).

[Sign up for the Hanover Research Grantseekers Updates](#). Each month you will receive updated grants deadlines calendars for a number of grant funding areas, as well as timely updates for other grant related news.

Introducing the New OSRP Research Coordinator III

We would like to introduce our new team member in OSRP, Research Coordinator, Abnet Hurst. Abnet began in OSRP on Monday, April 7th, bringing a wealth of experience in research administration and leadership. Along with her other duties, Abnet will work closely with faculty on grant seeking and collaborative team building. She will be reaching out to faculty across campus to schedule meetings.



Abnet is someone who cares deeply about people, systems, and the kind of work that brings value over time. She has spent most of her career in healthcare operations and team development, helping build programs and processes that make things clearer, more supportive, and more effective for everyone involved.

What matters most to her is collaboration, working with others to create something meaningful, something that works. She has also had the chance to be involved in applied research that helped guide decision-making and improve outcomes, and she is always looking for ways to connect strategy with service. Abnet is very honored to be part of the MSU Denver community and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the kind of culture that lifts people up and moves things forward.

OSRP Staff Attend Tucson HSI Grants Development Institute

With generous support from the MSU Denver Office of Diversity and Inclusion, OSRP staff joined Dr. Manny Del Real, Executive Director of Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives and Inclusion, at the HSI Grants Development Institute, hosted by Pima Community College, in Tucson, Arizona. The Institute was funded by a National Science Foundation Granted Program Award.



L-R: Tim Hawkins, Manny Del Real, Laneika Musalini, Lisa Jones

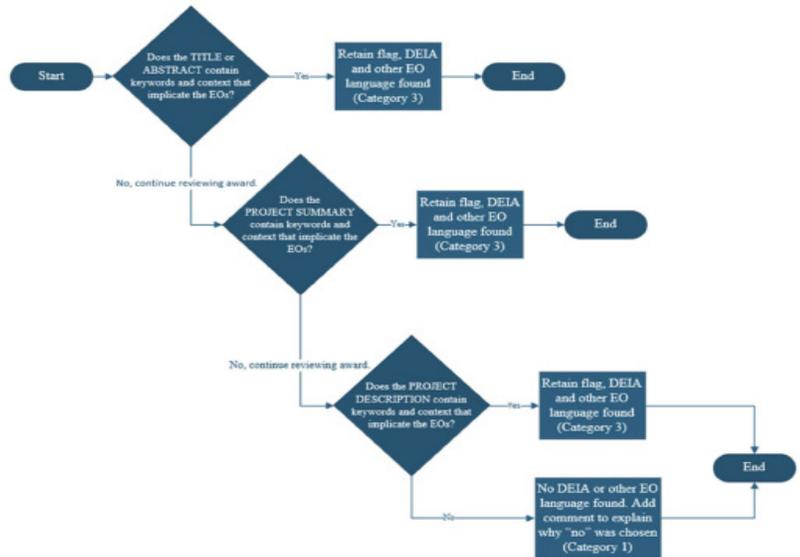
Institute sessions included: *HSI and Servingness 101*, *The Art of Grantspersonship*, *HSI Models and Frameworks*, *NSF Program Officer Panel*, *Equity in STEM Networking*, *Intro to HSI and Equity Focused Funding Opportunities*, and *Infusing Servingness Into Research and Proposal Development*.

The Office of Sponsored Research and Programs thanks the MSU Denver Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Tucson Pima Community College, and the National Science Foundation for sponsoring our staff attendance at this very informative Institute.

Federal Update

Every federal agency in the U.S. is currently trying to determine the best method for working with a ban on forbidden words in grant documents to comply with President Trump's Executive Order 14151, "Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing." In an article originally published in the Washington Post on February 5, 2025, this decision chart was published along with the list below of potentially banned words. Note that reviewers may be scanning documents for the use of these words. We understand this severely limits your grant narrative descriptions. At this time the best we can recommend is attempting to replace banned words with synonyms that may not be screened by AI review protocols.

OSRP continues to monitor federal government developments for grant awards and administration. To assist MSU Denver Faculty and Staff to be informed on current development in the federal grants landscape we have created a Grants News page to communicate the latest developments. Please access this news from the [OSRP website homepage](#).



Potentially Banned Words

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| activists | diverse groups | marginalize | |
| advocacy | diversified | marginalized | |
| advocate | diversify | minorities | social justice |
| advocates | diversifying | minority | sociocultural |
| barrier | diversity and inclusion | multicultural | socioeconomic |
| barriers | diversity equity | polarization | status |
| biased | enhance the diversity | political | stereotypes |
| biased toward | enhancing diversity | marginalize | systemic |
| biases | equal opportunity | marginalized | trauma |
| biases towards | equality | minorities | under appreciated |
| bipoc | equitable | minority | |
| black and latinx | equity | multicultural | |
| community diversity | ethnicity | polarization | |
| community equity | excluded | political | |
| cultural diVerences | female | prejudice | |
| cultural heritage | females | privileges | |
| culturally responsive | fostering inclusivity | promoting diversity | |
| disabilities | gender | race and ethnicity | |
| disability | gender diversity | racial | |
| discriminated | genders | racial diversity | |
| discrimination | hate speech | racial inequality | |
| discriminatory | inequality | racial justice | |
| diverse backgrounds | inequitable | racially | |
| diverse communities | inequities | racism | |
| diverse community | institutional | sense of belonging | |
| diverse group | lgbt | sexual preferences | |



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